

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended. Basis for the amendments, can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

## **OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS**

The Examiner has objected to Claims 1, 2 and 5 due to various informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2 and 5 to overcome the various grammatical errors and informalities acknowledged by the Examiner.

## **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Philbrick et al. The Examiner alleges that Philbrick discloses Applicant's invention.

Claim 1, among other elements, includes a tubular housing with a first axial end with a circumferential non-circular inner contour and an insertion bore portion. An inner coupling member is accommodated in the insertion bore portion. A connecting element with a connecting portion is accommodated in the connecting bore portion of the coupling housing adjacent the first axial end. The outer contour of the connecting portion and the inner contour of the coupling housing are such that a clearance exists between the inner and outer contours. Also, a connecting means connects the coupling housing to the connecting element such that they are movably held relative to each other in a limited way.

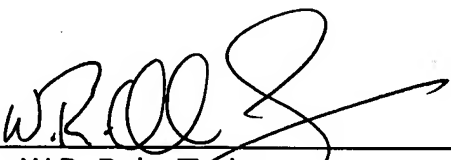
The Philbrick reference cited by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest such a coupling device. The Philbrick device does not include a connecting bore portion of the coupling housing adjacent the first axial end. Also, the Philbrick device does not have a connecting means connecting the coupling housing to the connecting element which are movably held relative to each other in a limited way. Philbrick illustrates a sleeve which receives a pair of hubs. The sleeve is circular at both ends with a splined section in the middle. Both hubs include spline sections which mesh with the sleeve splined sections which do not allow for the relative movement with respect to one another. Thus, Philbrick fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 13, 2003

By:   
W.R. Duke Taylor  
Reg. No. 31,306  
Attorney for Applicants

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

WRDT/lkj